NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BRECK & CO., (AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE,) NO. 52 NORTH MARKET STREET.

VOL. XXIII.] BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 15, 1845. [No 29.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

☞In giving the following statements respecting the Ayrshire breed of cows, we wish it understood that we have no selfish interest in any one breed of cattle more than another. We do not deal in cattle: neither raise them to sell, nor purchase them to speculate on. Further, we do not profess to be a superior judge of cattle—but from what we have seen with our own eyes, and been told by those whose experience and character entitle their statements to the fullest credence, we have formed a high opinion of some of the improved foreign breeds, the Ayrshire among others, and are well convinced that some of these are superior to our own common breeds, for the dairy in particular. We trust we shall never be so wilfully blinded by prejudice as to *refuse* to see superiority in foreign breeds, merely because they *are foreign*. Still, we would be the last to urge farmers of moderate means, to go to a great expense in procuring such animals,—but if through the liberality and public-spirit of such men as Mr Welles, Mr Cushing, Mr Webster, and Mr Randall, of our own State, the improved breeds are introduced among us, and farmers can, upon moderate terms, avail themselves of the advantage of the blood of these gentlemen's stock, we unhesitatingly recommend them to do it. To assume without a fair trial of the improved breeds from abroad, that our own native cattle—cows, in particular—are superior for our uses to any in the world, is, to say the least of it, an assumption which has much more of prejudice than truth for its foundation—while it is paying a very poor compliment to the sagacity and judgment of such men as those above named. Some writers we wot of, have, in the plentitude of their *wisdom*, plainly said that it is sheer *folly* in a farmer to keep the improved foreign breeds in the idea that they are superior to our own. If these Solomons are right, then DANIEL WEBSTER, and other distinguished farmers, who have justly won, and universally been accorded, the repute of *sensible* and *discerning* men, are—fools!

The following article, by C. N. Bement, Esq., is from the Central New York Farmer, and we copy it that our readers may be informed, from an experienced man like Mr Haggerston, of the characteristics and value of the Ayrshire cows, which some of our most eminent agriculturists consider superior to all other breeds for the New England farmer. As upon this point we can offer no opinion based upon our own experience, we have only to say, read and judge:—

AYRSHIRE COWS.

While the stately Durhams, the noble Herefords, and the splendid Devons, have engrossed all attention and been lauded to the skies, the beautiful little dairy cow, the Ayrshire, has been gradually, though silently, working into notice and favor.

The excellency of a dairy cow is estimated by the quantity and quality of her milk. The grand desideratum is to discover a breed that will be useful to the grazier, the dairyman, and the small farmer. The quantity of milk yielded by the Ayrshire cow is, considering her size, very great. It has been asserted that twenty quarts daily for two or three months after calving, may be considered as not more than an average quantity. Twelve quarts daily will be given for the next three months. This would amount to more than 850 gallons; but allowing for some unproductive cows, 600 gallons per year may be considered as the average quantity obtained annually from each cow.

The quality of the milk is estimated by the quantity of butter it will yield. Fourteen quarts of this milk will yield about one and a half pound of butter. An Ayrshire cow, therefore, may be reckoned to yield 257 lbs. of butter per annum, or about 5 lbs. per week all the year round. This is certainly an extraordinary quantity of butter, and fully establishes the reputation of the Ayrshire cow, so far as the dairy is concerned.

The writer of this has in his possession a cow half Durham and half Ayrshire, bred by himself, from eight quarts of whose milk he has obtained one pound of butter.

It is conceded, I believe, that the Ayrshire cows will yield as much milk, in proportion to their size and their food, as any other breed, and that they produce an unusual quantity of rich cream.

While on a visit at Boston, a few years since, we had the pleasure of viewing the beautiful Ayrshire cows imported by Mr Cushing, as well as those more recently imported by Capt. Geo. Randall, of New Bedford. Being desirous of obtaining the opinion of Mr David Haggerston, the able and efficient manager of Mr Cushing's farm, we addressed him on the subject, and the following is his reply:—

"I will, with pleasure, give you my experience of the Ayrshire stock. As milkers they are quite equal to the best native stock I have ever seen, and for years we procured the best native cows that could be found, without regard to price; for some of which we paid as high as two hundred dollars, which was not for fancy, but was considered the actual worth of the animals for their milking qualities, but have found at all times of the year, when the cows were in full milk, that the Ayrshires were the best, and whenever we have kept an account of milk given for a length of time from a native cow and an Ayrshire, the Ayrshire invariably held out the best. This I consider one of their grand qualities. Another good quality they have, the progeny are as good as the parents, in all cases. Our Ayrshire heifers have all proved as good for milk as their mothers, and this has also been the case with those which Mr Cushing has given away near home. I think I know at least twenty of them, that last season fully developed their milking qualities, and their owners all say they are the best cows they have ever owned; and many of them have milk farms, with large stocks of cows.

"Many crosses I have known are very superior, but from experience, as far as I have observed, it is necessary to repeat the cross more than once. I will explain: we had a native cow, or so called, from Marlborough, Mass., and an excellent milker. From her we have raised two heifers, both of which were equal to their mother. From her appearance, and the fact that the Short-horned bull *Denton* had been kept in the immediate neighborhood of the farm where she was bred, and that her owner (Mr Williams,) when alive, was an improver of stock, it is evident to me that the first strain was from *Denton*; then putting her to an Ayrshire bull, produced a stock that looks well, feels right, and shows a most decidedly improved stock, on which you can depend to breed from.

"We have had two native cows, both of them very great milkers, for which we paid high prices, more than the cost of any one of our imported Ayrshire cows. One of them, prior to our purchasing her, gained the first premium at Brighton, at the State Cattle Show, three years in succession, for the best milch cow of any breed. One of them was owned by a painter, the other by a mill-sawyer, both of whom kept only one cow. They were originally bought out of droves from Vermont, or down east, and evidently pure native stock. From these two cows we have raised several calves, from crosses of both a Durham and an Ayrshire bull; and not one of them has proved good for anything as milkers—losing all their mother's good qualities in that point, improved some in shape, but still very ordinary in appearance. We did not continue with another cross, as we did not think it worth while.

"As our bulls have always been free to any one, they have been freely used, I assure you, and it is acknowledged by the farmers that their young stock is very much improved: but whenever the improvement has been visible in the first cross, it has always been evident that the cow has had more or less improved blood in her.

"After taking all things into consideration, I have come to this positive conclusion, that the Ayrshire stock, for milkers, are superior to the natives:

"1st. In all cases of fair trial between natives and Ayrshire stock, as to quantity and quality of milk for making butter, that have come under my observation, the Ayrshire has proved the best.

"2d. The Ayrshires are more docile and much less apt to be unruly, in regard to fence-breaking.

"3d. The Ayrshires are equally hardy and healthy, and will give more milk on short feed than the natives.

"4th. The Ayrshires are decidedly the handsomest animals, and most pleasing to the eye.

"5th. In breeding from the Ayrshires, you can depend upon the young stock. I have found them, in all cases, equal to their parents; I mean the heifers, as we have only raised one full blooded bull, and he was poisoned when 2 1-2 years old, and was then the handsomest animal I ever saw, with handsomer points than his sire.

"6th. If for beef, the Ayrshires are much easier and quicker fattened.

"The only advantage the natives have over the Ayrshires, is in one point—the size of the teat. I think the small teats of the Ayrshire a great fault; and heifers with their first calf often suffer very much.

"My experience with Durham stock is very lim-

ited; our pasturing in this vicinity being altogether too poor for them to do well. My opinion is, however, with good pasture, and good winter food, they are, for *milk* or *beef*, the finest and best breed of animals in the world; but they never can do well in the immediate vicinity of Boston, for lack of summer feed."

In 1837, Mr R. D. Shepherd, of Baltimore, imported some Ayrshire cattle, and the following is the account given of them by the editor of the American Farmer, (J. S. Skinner, Esq.)—

"We were first ushered into the apartment in which Mr Shepherd's *Ayrshires* were stalled. On the north range stood two three-year olds, that had but a few days previously given birth to their first calves; and although from our acquaintance with the history of their breed, we knew they were the pride and boast of the place of their nativity, candor obliges us to declare that they far more than realized our most sanguine expectations of their peculiar excellence. England is justly proud of her Durhams, Devons, and Herefords; and Scotland, with an ambition equally well placed, reposes her claim to pre-eminence on her Ayrshires.

"Cows, it is well known to every reader, do not attain the height of their capacity for secreting milk, until they have borne their third calf. Here were two three-year olds, with their first calves, with udders possessing a volume so potent as to create a suspicion of their age, if the ring around their horns and the certificate of pedigree had not settled the point. That we were surprised is natural; for although we have, in our day, seen many, very many, fine young cows with their firstlings, we certainly never had seen anything that could compare with *these*. In answer to an inquiry, the cowherd assured us that one of them gave 20 quarts a day, and the other 24.

"The Ayrshire cow is not large, but beautiful in form and color, and makes ample amends for the absence of great size by her copious contributions to the pail." B.

[As we were unable to write out a report of the discussion at the first agricultural meeting at the State House, on Tuesday evening of last week, on account of being on committees, we copy the following from the Ploughman:]

FARMERS' MEETING IN THE CAPITOL.

On Tuesday evening last, agreeably to adjournment at the last session, a number of farmers, members of the Legislature and others—met in the Representatives' Hall, for the purpose of organization. The Hon. Morrill Allen was invited to the Chair, and Mr Page, a member from New Bedford, was chosen Secretary.

Mr Allen made a very pertinent address on the occasion of reassembling, and stated fully the objects of these meetings and the beneficial tendency which he was satisfied the reports of the discussions have had in the farming community. He then invited the assembly to organize for the winter.

The Hon. Levi Lincoln, President of the Senate, was chosen President. The Hon. Morrill Allen was chosen first Vice President, and Rev. R. Sanger, of Dover, second Vice President. The Editors of the agricultural papers were requested to report the proceedings.

Mr Lincoln was present, and on taking the Chair, made his acknowledgements for the honor done him, and expressed his satisfaction in meeting the farmers of Massachusetts for the purpose of exchanging ideas on a subject which must ever interest them. He said he could not pretend to much knowledge in the art of farming, yet he was bred on a farm, his father was a farmer, and he himself had ever taken pleasure in the operations of agriculture, though other business had occupied the principal part of his time.

As no particular subject had been assigned for discussion this evening, the remainder of it was spent in desultory remarks. The rot in potatoes, however, having been mentioned, many remarks were made in regard to the cause and remedy of the evil.

Mr Allen, of Northfield, observed that he had been from home most of the season, and was not so well acquainted with the symptoms of the disease as he otherwise might have been. He had travelled on the banks of the St. John's in Maine, and there he found no complaint of rot in the potato. When he had returned as far as Machias, he found some fields had been injured, though to no great extent.

Hon. Mr Allen, of Pembroke, said many farmers in his neighborhood had assigned various causes of the rot. Some ascribed it to putting long manure in the hill; but his answer to this was, that the practice was a very old one, having prevailed in many places ever since the cultivation of this root to any extent. Mr A. made some remarks on the rot in the Abington Blues, and inquired if gentlemen had not found some kinds more affected than others in the same field.

Dr. Stone, of Hardwick, proposed that a committee of scientific gentlemen should be chosen to investigate the subject thoroughly and report to the meeting.

Mr Allen, of P., doubted whether we could find proper materials for such a Committee, and the suggestion was not pressed. He said he should like to be informed whether cattle or hogs had died solely in consequence of eating rotten potatoes.

Mr Earle, of Worcester, spoke of the various causes assigned for the rot. He was of the opinion that the disease had prevailed for years. A friend from the highlands in the State of Pennsylvania had told him the complaint existed there as well as here, and he ascribed it to the extreme heat of the weather; but Mr Earle thought the heat would not be excessive on those highlands. He remarked that early-planted potatoes were affected less than late planted. One farmer had put salt into the hills on one part of his field, a small spoonful to each, and thus protected them from rot.

The President remarked that sward land had been thought to be more free from the rot than old grounds, but he had not perceived a difference. He planted on ground that had been plowed up the previous autumn and on green sward furrows plowed in the spring; the manure being applied in various ways, some plowed in, and some only harrowed, and some placed in the hill; but he could not perceive much difference. His Chenango potatoes were not more affected than others.

Mr Allen, of P., said it had been reported that Mr Webster had lost an ox at Marshfield, in consequence of eating rotten potatoes, but he had since learned that a turnip was found in the throat, and it was not certain the potatoes had hurt him.

Mr J. Breck said Mr Webster had at first supposed his ox had been killed by eating rotten potatoes, but that he now doubted, as it might have happened from other causes.

Mr Earle named two cases where cattle had eaten freely of rotten potatoes without injury.

Mr Kempton, of New Bedford, said ten fat cattle on one farm had fed on such potatoes without injury.

Mr S. Cole said some had supposed that new varieties were less affected than old, but new ones were as much rotted as any. He said a farmer had told him he had kept one variety for 30 years without deterioration, and they rot no more than others. He thinks the rot is caused by some peculiar influence of the atmosphere.

The editor of this paper said he had not yet heard a remark on the peculiarity of the past season. We have had colder and hotter summers, and we have had rotten potatoes many years ago, yet we have not heard so much complaint in any former season. He would remind gentlemen that excessive heat hastens the rotting of all matter predisposed to rot—that the hottest weather of the season was in September—that it continued for an unusual length of time, after the potato was formed. It was a very extraordinary September, and potatoes were very uncommonly affected. He did not suppose the extreme heat of September the sole cause, for the rot prevailed in New York and in Europe the previous year; but he thought the extraordinary heat late in September, must contribute much to hasten decomposition. Two facts stated this evening, tended to support this opinion. 1st. Early potatoes have been less affected than late ones. 2d. Potatoes manured in the hill have suffered more than others.

Mr Everett, of Princeton, had fed cattle and hogs with them without injury. The potatoes which he manured in the hill, had rotted much; where he put none in the hill, his potatoes were best, and none of them rotten.

Mr Page, of New Bedford, would inquire whether farmers had closely examined the effect of manuring in the hill. He said he was bred in New Hampshire where manure was quite scarce, and they put the whole in the hill; but for three years past he had put none in the hill, but spread it broadcast. His potatoes have not rotted, while a neighbor who puts manure into each hill, has lost many by rotting. Mr P. finds his potatoes of much better quality since he discontinued the old practice.

At nine, the meeting was adjourned to the next Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock. Subject for discussion—*What are the most probable causes and preventives of the disease in potatoes which has prevailed through many portions of the country the past season?*

Lowell Factories.—We are indebted to a friend for statistics of Lowell manufactures, from which we learn that the whole amount of capital invested in manufactures in that place is over $11,000,000.

Bales of cotton used per annum,	62,040
Pounds of wool,	1,000,000
Tons of anthracite coal,	12,500
Gallons of oil,	67,849
Spindles,	201,076
Yards of cloth made per week,	1,425,800

The amount of wool, 1,000,000 pounds, yearly consumed in the Lowell factories, if we allow 3 lbs. to a sheep, would require for its production more than 300,000 sheep. The same factories consume in the same period, 3,000,000 teazles, another agricultural production, which yields a handsome profit to the producer.—*Maine Far.*

Add to this the amount of agricultural products which the operatives yearly consume.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Farmer's Monthly Visitor contains the proceedings of an agricultural meeting held at the Capitol in Concord, N. H., Dec. 12th, at which Levi Bartlett, Esq., of Warner, presided. Ex-Gov. Hill, by request, first addressed the meeting in some excellent remarks, which we designed to copy into this number, but must defer till our next. Dr. C. T. Jackson, the State Geologist, being present, favored the meeting with an interesting address, from which we extract the following, and wish we had room for the whole:

"Speaking of the absorption of carbon, Dr. J. said: Plants require carbon from the atmosphere; they also require salts from the earth. Carbonic acid gas, which is poison, taken into the lungs of animals, is the food of plants. The bodies of men and animals, the decomposition of vegetables, tend to corrupt: we are disgusted and endangered by the effluvia; but the growing plants, the leaves of trees and flowers are imbibing them continually. It is this beautiful arrangement of nature which preserves all and adorns creation. Combustion is going forward at all times; and all vegetable substances decomposing by this process are giving out carbonic acid. Another supply of carbonic acid is found in minerals—it is given out with granitic rock. The process extracts a carbonate of potash, and separates it from the granite, reducing if to clay. Springs of water issuing from the ground, likewise give out carbonic acid.

Salts also contribute to the growth of vegetation. The roots of plants draw from the soil those things most soluble. Nature makes solubility to accord with the wants of vegetation. Liquids entering the plants, come from the soil. The plant takes in soluble humus, entering by the roots: this changes to sugar and gum—to the substances which give to plants their peculiar character and value. Salts also undergo decomposition: they combine with several acids and various other substances.

Phosphate of lime, a substance identical with those of which bones are made, exists more or less in the soil. Silicate of potash, identical with the substance of glass windows, enters the plants of wheat or Indian corn, and covers the plant. The presence of the silicate of potash, is proved in the burning of a piece of ratan. Each fibre removes like a horse hair. The silicate prevents honey dew and rust. Silex to the plant is a coat of mail. Mr Bartlett, the President, furnishes this protection for his plants among the materials of his compost heap. Silex, potash and lime, each in its various state, is drawn into the composition of the plant. The salts of lime are all convertible.

The convertible manures are such as may be converted to the use of the plant. Examine a barren or exhausted soil, and it will be found that some of the essential elements of vegetation are absent. A farmer ignorant of the tendencies of these necessary ingredients, may put in what is not wanted, and thus injure the ground he would improve. For instance, a farmer of Massachusetts spread upon his land a large quantity of ground bones: this, there, did no more good than so much sand, because the material there supplied, already existed in abundance. Thus, sand alone on most kinds of peat bog, will do no good, but hard subsoil will. The President (Mr Bartlett,) has made a grand improvement by making up his compost from micacious loam as a principal ingredient.

Dr. J. adverted to the farm of Judge Hayes, of South Berwick, on the borders of New Hampshire, which he had visited. On that farm he has found the means of reclaiming a bog swamp—changing it from yielding a little sour grass, to the production of rank, good English hay, herdsgrass and clover, by overspreading it with micacious loam. A meadow of good extent, by these artificial means, is made to produce two to two and a half tons of hay to the acre. The same enlightened gentleman and scientific farmer, likewise makes use of marl with great effect.

The principle, said Dr. J., is universally true, that all vegetable matter produces acids. All animal matter produces ammonia. Good farmers mix the two, as the true theory of composting.

To make good compost, take all kinds of vegetable matter, such as peat, leaves, weeds, tufts of grass, chips from the yard, &c.: this is put in as the basis of the manure heap. It is necessary there should be vegetable decomposition; for peat in its crude state, will produce yellow vegetation. It had been averred that some farmer by following his (Dr. J.'s) directions, had killed his corn. Dr J. averred that he had killed it by *not* following his directions. His rule was, first a layer of peat—then a layer of barnyard manures—then liquids and all urinal materials—then another of peat—then run the plow through deep in all directions. Pile the heap in a round form. It commences decomposition. If disagreeable scents escape, these cannot be spared. Throw on plaster to retain them. Dig over the whole in the following spring. Sprinkle in fine slaked lime at this time. Then pile up again.

Lime scarcely fails to be a good ingredient. A Rhode Island farmer said to him that the more lime he used, the blacker the soil becomes.

It has been fully demonstrated by Col. Phinney, and conceded by others, that three loads of black muck, one load of stable manure, and one bushel of lime mixed together, make excellent manure.

Another method is to mix twenty tons of peat with —— barrels of urine and one ton of plaster. This compound will absorb an immense quantity of ammonia, and become the most effective manure. It has no odor. This composition is used and handled by ladies for the benefit of their flower pots, who have no suspicion of the powerful material which gives its value. (A laugh.)

Another method of making manure, called Bommer's *Patent*, but which turns out by information from the Patent Office, to be free to the people of the United States, was described by Dr. Jackson. Take a vat with an outlet at the bottom, and fill it with vegetable substances; pour alkalies, urine, &c. upon them: run off the liquid—pour on again. The mass will be sufficiently decomposed in about twenty days.

One barrel of menhaden fish mixed with peat, will make a wagon-load of manure. Fish as a manure have been considerably used on the seaboard of Massachusetts.

Peat manure will never admit land to suffer by drought. A farmer informed him (Dr. J.) that he had saved his crop by the use of peat, while his neighbors lost theirs from drought. Peat also contains 14 or 15 per cent. of ammonia. Peat requires something with it to mellow its acid influences—it wants alkali to neutralize the crude effect of acid. A farmer in Kingston, N. H., (Mr Magoon,) used peat in its crude state, on a common field. The corn generally was sickly and yellow: on analyzation it was found to contain acid. But healthy, deep green growing corn and potatoes were found where the soil was mellowed by the presence of a decaying stump.

Dr Jackson described a peat bog in Canterbury, belonging to the Shakers, which had become almost entirely barren. In a black peat no vegetation would grow. From this meadow bog that community have taken many hundred loads, which have been used as the foundation for compost with good manure and other materials. With the aid of the barren peat bog, they convert fifty loads of yard manure into one hundred and fifty loads of the best compost. The peat meadow of the Shakers, to the amount of some fifty acres, is cultivated.

Mr Bartlett, Chairman of the meeting, had described to him (Dr. J.) his method of pulverizing bones for manure. The process of grinding bones to powder, has been found to be hard and difficult. Mr B. breaks or cracks the bones, so far as it can be done, with an axe, and then dissolves them in a solution of potash.

[The foregoing is but a meagre synopsis of the learned gentleman's valuable remarks.]

Mr Hill observed that lime had become of very extensive use spread over the soil, in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia: it had there been so long in use that there was no more doubt of its benefit than there could be of the best stable manure. He wished to know of the State Geologist, whether our New England soils could be equally benefited by the use of lime?

Dr. Jackson at once answered, that in New England, upon almost every kind of soil, he considered lime, in some form, to be a most valuable ingredient of manure.

Dr. Cowan, of Dover, by request, stated that he had very successfully used the subsoil plow on land that had not been previously stirred to a greater depth than four inches. The subsoil plow stirred the ground ten inches deeper. The crop on this ground was over 300 bushels of potatoes to the acre: the same land before had been lessened to a production of only 90 bushels to the acre, with ten or twelve loads of manure to the acre. The subsoiled land had 16 similar loads to the acre. He had no doubt his future crops on the same ground would be still greater. His subsoil plow cost him $15, and his first crop on less than two acres, had more than paid its full cost.

Some conversation was had on the potato disorder, but the whole matter was left in uncertainty.

DEFERRED NOTICES.

Ohio Cultivator.—M. B. Bateham, Esq., formerly of the Genesee Farmer, has established at Columbus, Ohio, a semi-monthly paper, of 8 quarto pages, with the above title, devoted to Agriculture and Horticulture. It *looks* as if it *might* succeed, and we wish it *may*—and it no doubt *will, if*, as the proprietor anticipates, it gets "ten thousand subscribers," and *one-half* of these prove *paying* subscribers. Price, $1 per annum.

The Albany Cultivator, for January, contains a fine steel engraving of a Durham prize cow. This publication is worthy the extensive patronage it has, and which the proprietor seems determined it shall continue to deserve.

The American Agriculturist, for January, appears in new type, which we take as an evidence of its prosperity. It was easier to improve its *dress*, than it would be to increase its *worth*—and in saying this, we pay it no mean compliment.

PLYMOUTH CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Report of the Committee on Improvements.

(Concluded.)

Nathan Whitman has made an experiment in alternate planting, in conformity with directions, and is entitled to the first premium of $15. He planted half an acre with corn alone; from this was harvested 42 43-75 bushels; half an acre with potatoes; from this was harvested 136 7-56 bushels; and half an acre in alternate rows of corn and potatoes; from this was harvested 22 50-75 bushels of corn, and 79 40-56 bushels of potatoes. In this experiment, there appears to have been a gain in mixed planting, of ten bushels of corn to the acre, and twentysix bushels of potatoes.

Leonard Hill has gone through all the processes required, has planted half an acre in each of the ways recommended, but has done it in detached pieces. He was induced to adopt this course because a part of his field was greensward last spring, and he correctly supposed the growth of both corn and potatoes would be something different on this, from the part which had been more recently tilled. Another circumstance demanded his attention, which seems to have been overlooked. A leading object in the experiment is, to ascertain the influence of a free admission of light, both on corn and potato plants. Small, detached pieces planted altogether with corn, or potatoes, the plants will manifestly have the benefit of more light than in an extended field. The committee cannot think Mr Hill is entitled to the second premium; but in commendation of his zeal and persevering exertions, award him a gratuity of $7.

The first premium for barley, is awarded to Josiah Whitman, of E. Bridgewater, who raised 39 bushels and 20 quarts on one acre and 13 rods, $8.

The first premium for oats, to Leonard Hill, of E. Bridgewater, who raised 57 1-2 bushels on one acre and five rods, $8.

The first premium for an experiment in raising potatoes, is awarded to Paschal Bassett, of Bridgewater, who raised in hills at the rate of 363 bushels, and in drills 425 per acre, $8.

To Paul Hathaway, the second premium, who raised in hills at the rate of 331 bushels, and in drills 396 per acre, $6.

The other applicant, Mr B. Hobart, raised in hills 270 bushels, and in drills 310 per acre. Mr H. was particular in the preparation of his land, and in many respects judicious; but we think he was wrong in taking any portion of his manure for the potato field, from the hog-yard. We cannot explain the philosophy in the case: we only know, the experience of a number of farmers in the Commonwealth has proved hog manure to be a species of poison to the potato crop. We also believe that Mr H. put an excessive quantity of plaster on his seed potatoes, and think it might have been an injury to the growth of the crop. As Mr H. is very much of an experimental man, it is presumed that in future trials he will satisfy himself whether the above suggestions demand any practical application. The committee are pleased with the particularity of Mr Hobart's statements, and award him Colman's Report.

Mr Bassett's potatoes were to some extent affected by the disease which has produced so great alarm, and so much speculation in the country. He informed that there was something of the same disease in his crop of the preceding year, and was inclined to ascribe the defect to the fact that barn manure was placed under the seed potatoes. This seemed not a satisfactory solution, since it has long been the practice of the country so to manure, and the disease is of late origin, or at least of late notoriety. It is, however, true that we have not seen any thing of the disease excepting where manure was placed under the potatoes.

Various causes have been suggested by speculative writers, as probable sources of the malady; peculiar atmospheric influences, such as are supposed to produce epidemic diseases among mankind—excessive wetness and excessive drought, the ravages of an insect, and what may be nearly allied to insect ravages, the growth of fungus. To the last named cause, Mr Teschemacher ascribes the malady, and thinks copious dressings of the fields with salt, might prove a preventive of the evil. Farmers should attend to every suggestion on this subject, and make trial of such preventive means recommended, as seem reasonable to them. For the loss of the potato crop would be next to famine, with a numerous class of citizens.

We believe it important to prepare the fields for this crop, with a view to the even growth of the plants. An exuberant growth of plants in any particular period of the season, tends to the production of disease. Renewed care in the selection of potatoes for seed, is also considered of great importance.

Claims for ruta baga were made by P. Hathaway and O. Littlejohn, of Middleborough. Mr L. raised at the rate of 305 bushels per acre, and Mr H. 291: as the season was very unfavorable for this crop, we recommend the award of one vol. N. E. Farmer to Mr Littlejohn, and one vol. Massachusetts Ploughman to Mr Hathaway. For other crops numerous entries were made, and the fields viewed, but no statements have been returned probably drought prevented the attainment of the required quantity.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRILL ALLEN.

—Old Colony Memorial.

[COMMUNICATION.]

"He is the most meritorious farmer, who with the *least means* effects the *greatest improvements.*"

Mr Editor—I assume the above to be a maxim—and a maxim may be defined as an *established truth.* Were I, then, a member of a committee of one of our Agricultural Societies to inspect and award premiums for the best farms—(an office, by the way, which I should not covet)—I would be governed in my estimation of a claimant's merits, *not* by the extent and ornaments of his estate—*not* by the mere pretty things, or really valuable things which I noticed on his premises,—*not*, in fact, by any *real improvements* which I saw, however great: but, I would ask, *what* were his *means* of ornamenting and improving his grounds,—and if I found that, by the capital of his *labor* alone he had done much to increase the value of his farm, and set a good example for others to imitate, then I would award *him* a premium in preference to another claimant who might have effected greater improvements through the means of money capital. This might not be the course which some would adopt, but, nevertheless, speaking for myself alone, I say, that the improvement effected by *industry*, is more deserving of reward than the improvement, though greater, effected by abundance of *monied capital.*

I do not design this as "a hit" at any award of any committee of any agricultural society in particular—but I would say that I think I have known instances where, had the maxim at the head of this, *had its due influence*, the award of premium *might* have been otherwise than it was.

I appreciate fully the perplexities and difficulties which committees on premiums usually have to encounter in forming a just decision, and, in charity, am disposed to think, that if they *err* in giving their awards, in such cases as I have referred to, it is not from a disposition to reward the improvements of the *rich*, before the improvements of the less wealthy farmer, but from *a mistaken conception of merit.* I conclude with a repetition of the maxim—"He is the most meritorious farmer who, with *the least means*, effects *the greatest improvements.*"

Respectfully, yours,

JUSTITIA.

☞We do not know that we can find fault with aught our correspondent says; but we would say that no case occurs to *our* mind, in which a committee were evidently influenced in awarding premiums, by the circumstance that the successful competitor had wealth to aid him in effecting his improvements. Such an influence would be unworthy and unjust in the highest degree, and we can hardly suppose it ever to have been entertained, much less acted upon.—Ed.

THE SMITHSONIAN BEQUEST.—MODEL FARM.

James Smithson, of London, bequeathed all his property to the United States, to found at Washington, under the name of the *Smithsonian Institution*, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men. The estate was sold soon after the death of the benevolent Englishman, and yielded the sum of $508,318, which was paid into the Treasury of the United States, Dec. 3d, 1838. On the meeting of Congress next month, [December 1844,] the interest due the Smithsonian Bequest by the Treasury of the United States, will amount to one hundred and eightytwo thousand dollars. The whole fund will then amount to six hundred and ninety thousand dollars. We have added six per cent. interest from the date the fund was paid into the Treasury. Six years have passed away since our agent received this money from the executors in England, and yet nothing has been done by Congress to carry out the benevolent design of the testator.

At the close of the last session of Congress, Senator Tappan, of Ohio, introduced a bill for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institute, proposing the establishment of a Model Farm upon ten acres of ground in the vicinity of the Capitol, the agricultural and horticultural departments to be conducted on the most approved plans, ample provisions being made for experiments in farming and husbandry; the whole to be under the care of twelve citizens of ability and experience, appointed by Congress. Among the means of usefulness contemplated in the bill, is the distribution of such fruits, plants, seeds and vegetables, as shall be found useful, and adapted to any of our soils and climates, so that the people in every part of the Union may enjoy the benefits of the institution. All the instruction in the institution is to be gratuitous to those students who conform to the rules and regulations. Petitions in aid of this bill are now in circulation in various parts of the Union.—*New Bedford Mercury.*

The idea above suggested for investing a portion of the Smithsonian fund, is certainly a very

excellent one, and we sincerely hope it may, in some shape, be carried out. But, common sense forbid that *twelve* persons should be appointed to manage a farm of ten acres!—that is, if fat salaries, as undoubtedly would be the case, are to be paid to the managers; and who, in the vicinity of *Washington*, would think of serving in the capacity of an agent of the government without being *well paid?* No, no!—the atmosphere of the place smells so strong of "public plunder," that it is almost impossible to resist its influence! If the "Model Farm" is established, therefore, let it be somewhere else than in the District of Columbia; or, if that region is selected, Heaven forbid that a "round dozen" of salaried gentlemen should be called to preside over it!—*Southern Cultivator.*

☞We think the benevolent Englishman erred in bequeathing such a great sum of money to the United States, without giving specific directions for its disposal—as it so far has been, and is likely to be, "a bone of contention" with our Congressmen. It is not easy to decide what disposition of the bequest would best subserve the purpose named by the donor, viz: "the increase of knowledge among men"—but we hope the present Congress will dispose of it in *some* way, and wisely. *If* it were to be appropriated to the establishment of a model farm and agricultural college, we join in the wish above expressed, that the location for the institution might be somewhere else than in the immediate vicinity of "the city of magnificent distances." But we may as well "whisper low," as our voice can have no influence in the matter.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS IN PLANTING CORN.

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal:

Gentlemen—I beg leave to offer to your consideration the result of an experiment made during the present year, to ascertain the advantages of planting corn more closely than has generally been practiced; and the number of stalks which should be left in each hill. The experiment was made on ground which had been cleared in 1810. In its natural state, it was as rich as the best Kentucky lands, and its fertility had been preserved by a due proportion of grass crops, but it had no manure. In the spring of the year 1841, the field was sowed with red clover among growing wheat. In 1842 and '43, the clover was pastured, by a well constructed plow. Early in April of the present year, (1844,) the ground was again plowed, harrowed, and laid off and planted on the 12th of that month. On one side of the field, intended for hemp, I caused four acres to be laid off, in an oblong square, as follows: First, the long way exactly 3 1-2 feet; and then at right angles, one acre 4 feet; one acre 3 1-2, one acre 3 feet; and one acre 2 1-2 feet. In due time I thinned the three first acres to three stalks in a hill, and the fourth to two stalks in a hill. Supposing the hills each to have the number intended, the number of stalks on each acre would have been as follows:

	Stalks.
Acre 3 1-2 by 4 feet,	9,335
" 3 1-4 by 3 1-2 feet,	10,668
" 3 1-2 by 3 feet,	12,447
" 3 1-2 by 2 1-2 feet,	9,956

The season up to the 2d of July, was tolerably favorable, though there was too much rain for a first rate crop of corn. For two weeks succeeding, no rain fell. During this period the atmosphere was dry and windy. As the corn was generally getting into silk when this drought commenced, and as this is the period when corn requires much rain to make it *ear well*, it suffered very much. Although light rains again fell from the middle of July to the last of that month, they came too late to be materially beneficial to early planted corn. The consequence was, that scarcely a stalk produced more than one ear, and even that one of diminished size. I am fully persuaded that the dry weather in the first half of July, diminished the crop at least 50 per cent. The crop was also somewhat diminished by great numbers of crows opening and picking off the grains at the small end of the ear, when in the milk state. The corn was gathered, and each acre separately measured, about the first of November, when perfectly dry, and the quantity produced was as follows: The first acre, 68 bushels; second acre, 69 bushels; third acre, 69 bushels, and fourth acre, 77 1-2 bushels. The ground throughout lays equally well, and was of the same quality, but the first acre was rather the most injured by the crows.

It will be seen that the acre planted 3 1-2 by 4 feet, produced nearly as well (perhaps quite, making a due allowance for the greater injury received) as the two next acres; that the acre having 12,447 stalks, produced only the same number of bushels as that having 10,668; and that the acre having two stalks to the hill, and 9,956 in the whole, produced eight and a half bushels more than either of the others.

From this experiment it would seem that, in ground of the *best quality*, where *three stalks* are intended to be left in a hill, the distance each way should not be less than three and a half feet; and that where it is intended to plant more closely, not more than *two stalks* should be left in a hill. The acre planted 3 1-2 by 2 1-2 feet, produced decidedly the best, but it was too close one way to be plowed conveniently. Thus planted, there were 8 3-4 square feet to each hill. If planted 3 feet each way, there would be 9 square feet to each hill. This, I am of opinion, would be the better way to plant, where it is intended to leave two stalks in a hill, as the distance each way would be more convenient for plowing, and the number of stalks per acre would be but slightly diminished.

As our corn crops are affected by so many contingencies, a single experiment is not very conclusive in favor of any particular theory, and I intend, if I am spared, to repeat my experiment next year on the same ground, except that I will lay off the ground the long way three feet, and in the other direction four, three and a half, and three feet, thinning the two first to three stalks, and the third to two stalks in a hill.

On the day after planting the above experimental crop, I planted some twelve or fifteen acres of corn on ground which had been cleared and cultivated some twenty or twentyfive years before it came into possession of the plantation on which I now reside—1812. This land had been considerably reduced by a strong succession of corn crops, but as it lay well, I found no difficulty in renovating it by grassing and manuring. For the three or four years preceding the present, it was cultivated in hemp. Early in April it was plowed and harrowed, which left it in a finely pulverized state. It was laid off by a small plow, exactly three and a half feet each way, planted on the 13th of April, and in due time thinned out to three stalks in the hill. It was cultivated by plowing both ways with the common shovel-plow, and once hoed, so as to leave the hills perfectly clean. This corn was affected by the drought in June, in the same manner as related of the four acres described above.

I caused one acre to be pulled and measured when perfectly dry, through the central part of the field, where it had not been injured by crows or squirrels, and the yield was 77 bushels. In both cases, I planted the same kind of corn, a medium between the White Flint and Gourd Seed. This corn is not so productive as the larger kinds, but better for bread.

I have mentioned the product of the last mentioned acre, not because of its extraordinary character—for it falls vastly short of the great crops of Bryant and Young, of Jessamine county—but to show that land cleared nearly sixty years, which had been reduced by twenty or twentyfive *successive* crops of corn, can be easily renovated so as to produce 77 bushels per acre, in quite an unfavorable season. Yours, truly,

A. BEATTY.

TREATMENT OF YOUNG STOCK.

Some experience and much observation have convinced me, that one of the most common errors into which farmers fall, is in neglecting their young stock. Many farmers are in the practice of turning off their young stock on the poorest food. This is not right; for if ever animals require the best of food and plenty of it, it is when they are young and growing. They will not grow into good shape or size, if half starved or stinted of their food. I have heard some farmers boast of the small quantity of food on which they had carried their stock through the winter. Our pride would be to see how well we could carry them through the winter. "An animal well wintered is half summered." One good cow full fed, is worth more than three half starved ones. I am aware that high feeding of milk cows on grain, is not generally believed to be profitable, but I am satisfied that by feeding them on roots in the winter, the cows would give milk nearly the whole year, and their calves would be much more valuable. If cows are allowed to fall very low during winter, in vain shall we hope to obtain an abundant supply of milk by bringing them into high condition in the summer; for if a cow be lean at the time of calving, no management afterwards will ever bring her to yield for that season, anything like the quantity of milk that she would have done, had she been all the winter in a high condition.—*Bement's Address.*

Guano.—Capt. Town reports that the excavations at Ichaboe, bade fair soon to leave nothing more to excavate. They had got down to the rock on which the deposites of guano rested. The body of a man had been found, imbedded in the guano, and from the depth at which it lay, it was supposed to have been there some centuries; yet the flesh, hair, nails, &c. were in perfect preservation. Some eggs had been found, also, very deep, and in excellent condition.—*Mail.*

[It has been stated that guano is used in the adulteration of snuff: the above discovery may lead to its use for preserving eggs! We presume it would *improve* the quality of eggs as much as it does the quality of snuff.]

The Governor of New Hampshire has appointed the 17th day of April for the annual Fast in that State. Is n't he rather *fast?*—*Mail.*

The true way of enriching ourselves is by cutting off our wants.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15, 1845.

☞NOTICE.—Those indebted for one or more years' subscription to to this paper, will do us an act of justice by forwarding the amount of their dues without delay. Remember that payment made in advance, will save 50 cents. The publishers pay the printers every week, and the paper-maker quarterly; and it is inconvenient to have their dues from subscribers kept back year after year, as is the case in many instances.

THE PUBLISHERS.

CULTIVATION OF THE CHESTNUT TREE.

MR BRECK—I have often wondered that the Chestnut was not more commonly cultivated on our farms than it is. Besides being one of the most valuable of timber trees, it yields a fruit which is highly prized, and readily sells at a good price. I should suppose that a farmer within a moderate distance of Boston, or who could easily send to that market by railroad, would find a lot of chestnut trees a source of considerable profit to him, from the sale of the nuts alone. What obstacles are there to the more general cultivation of this tree? and would it not be well for our agricultural societies to encourage its growth by premiums?

Yours, ENQ.

☞We do not believe much profit would be realized from a plantation of chestnut trees, so far as concerns the fruit, unless others have a better faculty to keep off pilferers than we have. We have perhaps fifty fine trees on our farm, and the nuts we save from them would hardly keep a squirrel alive through the year. We give them up for plunder to the boys, and other trespassers, who consider chestnuts and all wild fruits a lawful prize, wherever they may find them, and who think they are privileged with the right of tumbling down the farmer's wall, or of forcing their passage through the grass or grain, to effect their object. We hope our correspondent will not think of raising chestnut trees for the nuts, as he may be very much disappointed should he live to see the trees in bearing—but for timber, the chestnut is very valuable for many purposes. Not only the chestnut, but other forest trees should receive more attention from our countrymen in their preservation and cultivation than is generally the case. It is to be wished that the value of all trees suitable for timber should be better understood than it appears to be. The time will come when trees must be cultivated, not only for ornament and shade, but for all their various and important purposes. We have been often pained to see the indiscriminate destruction of forests, which would have been much more profitable to grow up to woods again, than to be converted into a poor pasture or broken tillage land. If a chestnut grove is cut down before the trees begin to decay, vigorous sprouts will soon start from the stumps, and in a few years will have grown to considerable trees. From three to five sprouts may be permitted to spring from each stump.

A chestnut grove may be formed either from planting the nuts where it is desired the trees should stand, or by planting in nursery beds, to be transplanted where they are to stand, when of a suitable size. In a rocky, rough piece of land, it would no doubt be best to plant the chestnuts where the trees are to remain, which should be done in the fall, covering the nuts slightly with earth and leaves, as nature does. If the chestnuts are suffered to dry and remain out of the ground until spring, very few or none of them will vegetate.

In the *Massachusetts Agricultural Repository*, for June, 1822, the Hon. John Lowell, then conductor of that work, gives an account of his mode of rearing forest trees. In 1807, 1808, and 1809, he planted with forest trees, from two to three acres of land, which was barren and unproductive, its whole value per annum not worth $10.

He planted a great variety of trees, including the chestnut. The method he pursued may be interesting to our correspondent and others, and the detail of his operations and successful results, may excite others to follow his example. We have had the pleasure repeatedly, of walking among the trees alluded to in Mr Lowell's account: many of them are equal in size to what are generally seen in our common forests, and whenever we have witnessed this successful result of his early labors, it has been with a feeling of reverence and respect for the memory of a man who has done so much to advance the Agriculture and Horticulture of his country. Mr Lowell says:

"The land was about half of it plowed and kept open with potatoes for two years, and then abandoned to the course of nature. The pines were taken up out of the forest with great care, when not more than five feet high. Wherever I had the cupidity or impatience to introduce a larger tree, I either lost it, or it became sickly. In some places I planted acorns, and as to my hard-wood forest trees, transplanted from the woods, finding they looked feeble and sickly when they shot out, I instantly sawed them off at the ground, or near it. This required some resolution, but I have been abundantly paid for it.

"The result of this experiment is this, that in a period of 13 or 14 years, I have raised a young, thrifty, and beautiful plantation, comprising almost every variety of tree which we have in Massachusetts, which are now (in 1822,) from 25 to 35 feet high, and some of which—the thriftiest white pines—actually measure from nine to twelve inches in diameter. The loppings and thinnings out of these trees now furnish abundance of light fuel for summer use, and upon as accurate a calculation as I am able to make, I am convinced that the present growth, cut down at the end of 14 years from the planting, would amply pay for the land at the price it would have brought. I do not mean to say this would be the case in the interior. But in the vicinity of Boston and Salem, I am sure the experiment may be tried with perfect success.

"I planted the trees in two or three days, and left them to their fate; but I consider two conditions indispensable to success: First, that as to pines of all sorts, and other evergreen trees, they should be put out not more than 4 years old, *not pruned*, for they will not bear the knife well. Secondly, as to hard wood trees transplanted from the woods, they should be instantly cut down to the ground, or near it."

Mr Lowell remarks, that it is only because there were then no nurseries of forest trees in New England, that he speaks of the barbarous practice of transplanting and immediately heading down, as young trees from a nursery would in all respects be preferable.

He continues:—"Writers do not agree with regard to some particulars in cultivating trees. Miller says transplanted oaks will never arrive at the size of those raised from the acorn in the place where they are to remain. Dr. Yale, (*Caled. Hort. Mem.* 11,) in a long paper on trees, strongly recommends sowing the seeds where the trees are finally to remain. 'It is,' says he, 'a well ascertained fact, that seedlings allowed to remain in their original station, will, in a few years, overtop the common nursed plants, several years older.' Loudon says, 'the opinion of Dr. Yale, and in part, also, that of Sang, seems to be founded on the idea that the tap root is of great importance to grown up trees, and that when this is once cut off by transplanting, the plant has not a power of renewing it. That the tap-root is of the utmost consequence for the first three or four years, is obvious from the economy of nature at that age of the plant, perhaps for a longer period; but that it can be of no great consequence to full grown trees, is highly probable from the fact, that when such trees are cut down, the tap-root is seldom to be distinguished from the others.'"

Mr Lowell goes on to prove from Loudon, Forsyth, and the practice of nurserymen generally, that the tap-root is of no consequence after a few of the first years, and that it is not important to plant the seed where the tree is finally to remain. Every farmer knows that upon examining the roots of a tree that has been blown down by the wind, he cannot distinguish the tap root from any other. In our directions, then, for forming a plantation of chestnut and other forest trees, we should not advise a person to be confined to either mode. If young, thrifty trees were near at hand, we should transplant from the woods, and plant where the soil would admit of free working—but if the trees were not easily procured, and the ground hard and rocky, we should plant the seeds.

Mr Lowell's practice of heading down hard wood forest trees after transplanting, is one which we have followed ourselves with entire success, and have always recommended it to our neighbors.

ARE DISEASED POTATOES POISONOUS TO ANIMALS?

The subject of the alarming disease in potatoes was brought up at the State House, at the organization of the agricultural meeting, and during the conversation it was asked if any present knew of a case in which an animal had died from eating potatoes affected with the rot? No one had known such a case—but several gentlemen stated cases in which animals had fed on such potatoes without injury. A few weeks since, we stated that Hon. Daniel Webster had lost a valuable fat ox, in consequence of feeding upon diseased potatoes. Since then, we have had an interview with him, and he then thought the ox might have died from other causes. It is very important to know whether there has been a single case of death from eating diseased potatoes. Many have been greatly alarmed by the rumors which have been in circulation relative to the dangerous qualities of the diseased potatoes to man and beast—and if such rumors are without foundation, the public mind should be relieved from anxiety on the subject. Will the farmers send us their experience?

ABSORPTION OF CARBONIC ACID GAS BY VEGETATION.

The infinite wisdom and no less infinite goodness of the Omnipotent, is most strikingly exemplified, and can hardly be contemplated in a more pleasing aspect, than in the provision for the absorption of the noxious carbonic acid gas by plants, by which a poison to human life is made a source of sustenance to vegetable life, and thus converted into a benefit to man. How wonderfully wise and good is this! Vegetable and animal bodies by their decay, furnish food for growing plants, and these sustain animal life. Thus it is ordered that life shall be sustained by death. This pleasing view of the order of nature, and infinitely wise adaptation of means to ends, cannot fail to excite a deeper reverence for the Creator and Sustainer of all things; and surely the *undevout student of chemistry*, no less than "the *undevout astronomer*, is mad."

Reader, if you can partake with us of the pleasure which such views of the works of the Creator afford, we advise you to purchase, and attentively read, the "*Actonian Prize Essay*: Chemistry as illustrating the Wisdom and Beneficence of God." It may be procured of Messrs Saxton & Pierce, booksellers, Washington street. This little work is worth a ton of the trashy publications of the day. Though its cost is but a trifle, it is worth treble its weight in gold. ***

Silk shawls worth $25, are manufactured at Richmond, Indiana.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure to the week ending Jan. 5.

Jan. 1845.	7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	6	26	27	27	N. E.
Tuesday,	7	34	36	30	E.
Wednesday,	8	26	36	30	N. W.
Thursday,	9	20	32	38	S. E.
Friday,	10	32	40	30	S. W.
Saturday,	11	23	35	27	N. E.
Sunday,	12	25	30	27	N. E.

BRIGHTON MARKET —Monday, Jan. 13, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 290 Beef Cattle, 1200 Sheep and 125 Swine.

Prices — *Beef Cattle* —In consequence of the limited number at market an advance was effected. Extra $5 a 5,25. First quality, $4,75 a 5. Second quality $4 25 a 4,50. Third quality, $4,00 a 4,25.

Sheep.—Common sheep from $1,75 to 2,25. Weathers from $2,25 to 3,50.

Swine.—No lots sold to peddle. At retail from 4 to 5.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $1 37 a 1 50 per bushel Red Top 50 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 9 to 11c.—Southern, 7 a 9 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $1 37 a 1 75 per bushel.

GRAIN. There has been a good demand for prime mealing Corn throughout the week, and a large portion of the late heavy supplies has passed from first hands.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 00—Southern, round yellow, 50 a 52—Southern flat yellow, 48 a 50—do. do white 46 a 48—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 00 a 00—do. Southern, 62 a 70 —Oats Southern, 31 a 32 — Northern do. 00 to 34—Beans, per bushel 1 50 a 1 75.—Shorts, per double bush. 27 a 32—Bran, 25 a 27.

FLOUR. A very limited business has been done in this article during the past week, the transactions being confined to the actual demand for home consumption.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $4 75 a 4 81 —do. wharf, $4 62 a 4 75—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 62 a 4 67 — Fredericksburg low P'd new $4 62 a 4 67—Alexandria, wharf, 4 62 a 4 67 —Georgetown, $4 75 a 4 87 —Extra do. 0 00 a 5 00 —Richmond Canal, $4 75 a 4 81—do. City, $5 50 a 0 00—Petersbargh, City, $5 00 a 5 50—do. Country $4 68 a 4 75—Genesee, common, cash, $4 87 a 4 94— do fancy brands $5 00 a 5 37—Ohio via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $4 62 a 4 75 Rye, $0 00 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 62 a 2 67.

PROVISIONS. For Beef the market is hardly so firm as at the close of our last report, except for small parcels; in other Provisions there is a good deal of firmness among holders, but as usual during the present month, sales are quite limited.

Beef—Mess 4 mo new bbl. $8 75 a 9 00—Navy—$7 50 a 8 00.—No. 1, $6 50 a 7 00—do Prime $5 50 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $11 50 a 12 00—do Clear $10 00 a 11 00 do. Mess, $9 50 a 10 00—do Prime $7 50 a 8 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, shipping, 10 a 13—do store, uninspected, 11 a 12—do dairy, 14 cts. a 17—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 00 a 0 —do South and Western, 6¼ a 6¾— Hams, Boston, 7 a 00 — Southern and Western, 6 a 6¼—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 4 a 5—do new milk, 5 a 6

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

There has been a good steady demand for Wool throughout the week. In foreign the sales of unwashed have been to a considerable extent, within the quoted rates.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 45 a 50 c.—American full blood do 40 a 42—Do 3-4 do 37 a 38—Do. 1-2 do 35 a 36 -1-4 and common do 30 a 32 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 22— Do. unwashed, 10 a 15 — Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean do—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10— do. do. picked, 10 a 14—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 38 a 40—No. 1 do. do. do. 33 a 35—No. 2 do do do 23 a 30—No. 3 do do do 14 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The usual dullness of the season exhibits light sales of this article. About 200 bales have recently been shipped to a foreign market.

1st sort Mass 1843, lb. 13 a 14 ; 2d do 0 a 0.

HAY, 16 to 18 per ton—Eastern Screwed $13 to 14,

EGGS, 15 to 20.

BEMENT'S AMERICAN POULTERER'S COMPANION.

The American Poulterer's Companion — A Practical Treatise on the Breeding, Rearing, Fattening and General Management of the various species of Domestic Poultry, with Illustrations and Portraits of Fowls taken from life By C. N. Bement, Albany. Published by Saxton & Miles, New York. For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO.— Price $1 25.

BACK VOLUMES OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. have received a few sets of the 3 back volumes of the American Agriculturist, elegantly bound in cloth. Price $3 75 per sett.

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The sub oil Plow is unquestionably the most important agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skillful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say: —"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show*, are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor and fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth"

The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

Dec 18, 1844. tf.

BARN DOOR ROLLERS AND IRON RODS

For sliding Doors, Axletrees, Steel Springs, and Tire Iron for sale by H. RICHARDS,

Sept. 18. No. 109, State Street

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

TRACE CHAINS.

The subscribers have for sale a fine assortment of Trace and Tie-up Chains. JOS. BRECK & CO,

At N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store.

Oct. 2.

CHEESE PRESSES.

Self acting and other Cheese Presses, of the most approved kinds, for sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 52 North Market street, by J. BRECK & Co.

HORTICULTURAL TOOLS.

A few cases of superior Horticultural Tools, for gentlemen or ladies' use For sale by JOS. BRECK & CO.

51 and 52 North Market Street.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

NEW ENGLAND

Agricultural Warehouse

AND

SEED STORE.

51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz:—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do. 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do. 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do., 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz Scythe Stones, 3000 do. Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do Common do, 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS.

The subscribers are now receiving their fall supply of Garden, Field and Grass Seeds, and would respectfully recommend to their customers to send in their orders as early as possible to secure a supply from their choicest lots. Their stock of seeds for this season will be very full and complete, and most of the varieties being raised under their own inspection they can confidently recommend them as being fresh and genuine. Among them are Long Blood, Early Turnip and Sugar Beets; Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, Orange Carrot, Radish, Cucumber and Cabbage of sorts. Also, Peas, Beans and Squashes, which together with a large supply of most kinds of seed desirable for the field or garden, comprise the most complete and extensive assortment of seeds to be found at any similar establishment in the country. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Oct. 2.

MILK ESTABLISHMENT FOR SALE.

The subscriber being about to relinquish the milk business, offers for sale, his entire milk establishment, consisting of 23 Cows, 1 Milk Cart and Wagon, and an excellent run of custom. JOHN PARKINSON,

Oct. 16, 1844. Walnut Street, Roxbury.

AFRICAN GUANO.

The cargo of the brig Samos, just arrived direct from Africa. This Guano has been analyzed by J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., and pronounced by him as fully equal to the best cargoes received in the London or Liverpool markets. Purchasers can depend on this as being the *genuine* article. For sale, in quantities to suit, by

CHARLES HOFFMAN, Salem.
VERNON BROWN, 5 Merchants' Exchange.
J. BRECK & CO. 51 & 52 N. Market St., up stairs.

Sept. 17 3m.*

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JO. BRECK & CO.

CAST IRON SLED SHOES

For double and single Runners, of all sizes, also, Barn Door Rollers, from 3 to 10 inches, for sliding doors, for sale by HENRY RICHARDS,

Dec. 7, 1844. No. 109, State street

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORIGIN OF THANKSGIVING.

In the first book of records under the "Court of Assistants" of Massachusetts, under date of June 1, 1632, it is recorded as follows: "This Court, taking into consideration the great mercy of God vouchsafed to the Church of God in Germany and the Pallatinate, have appointed the 13th day of this present month to be kept as a day of Thanksgiving throughout the several plantations."

In June, 1633, the Court ordered as follows:

"The 19th day of this present month is appoynted to be kept as a day of publique Thanksgiving throughout the several plantations."

The same year, October 3d, it is recorded as follows:

"In regard of the many and extraordinary mercies which the Lord hath been pleased to vouchsafe of late to the plantation, the plentiful harvest, ships safely arrived with persons of spetiall use and quantity, &c., it is ordered that Wednesday, the 16th day of this present month, shall be kept as a day of publique Thanksgiving throughout the several plantations."

This was probably the first thanksgiving in Massachusetts which had reference to the ingathering of the harvest. We find no mention of any thanksgiving for the next three years. In 1637, the Court appointed the 15th of the 4th month [June,] to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving in the several churches. In 1638, the record says—"Intimation to be given to the elders of our several churches of the desire of the Court to keep the last Thursday of the 8th month [October] a day of Thanksgiving for the safe-coming of so many ships this year, and the seasonable weather in the spring and now to ripen the harvest."

In 1639, it was "ordered that the 28th day of this present month [November] should be kept a day of public Thanksgiving through the Churches."

It is presumed that from this time the custom prevailed, and probably without interruption, of celebrating the gathering in of the agricultural crops by a thanksgiving festival. The first Proclamation for a day of thanksgiving, which we have seen, is the following, copied from "The New England Weekly Journal," of October 21, 1728:

By His Excellency
WILLIAM BURNET, Esq.

Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesties Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, in *New England*.

Proclamation for a General THANKSGIVING.

In Consideration of the many undeserved Blessings which it hath pleased Almighty GOD of His great Goodness, to confer on us in the Course of this year, more especially in Preserving the Sacred Person of Our Sovereign Lord the KING, Our most Gracious QUEEN, the Royal Issue, and the rest of the Royal Family, in giving Success to His Majesties Councils, for continuing the PEACE of Europe, in protecting the Government of this Province, and in preserving to us Peace and the Enjoyment of Our most valuable Privileges, Civil and Religious, in granting us so good a Measure of Health, and in giving us such a plentiful HARVEST, and in making our Merchandize and Fishery to prosper, and defending them from the Violence of merciless Pirates, with manifold other unmerited Favors—All which lay us under the deepest Obligations of Gratitude & Obedience to our most Bountful Benefactor.

I have, therefore, thought fit, with the advice of His Majesties Council, and at the Desire of the Representatives in the present Session, to Order and Appoint, that Thursday, the Seventh of November next, be solemnly Observed as a Day of Public THANKSGIVING throughout this Province—Earnestly Exhorting both Ministers and People in their respective Assemblies, to offer up their most Unfeigned THANKS to Our Most Gracious GOD, the author of all our Blessings, with their Fervent Prayers that we may Fear the LORD and His Goodness, and walk worthy of Him. And all Servile Labor is Forbidden on the said Day.

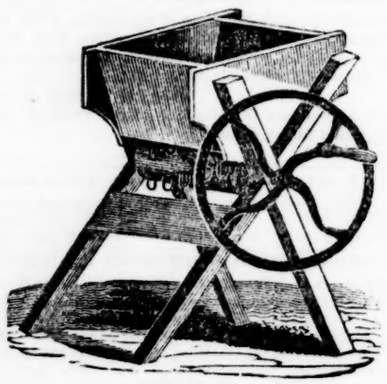
Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, the Fifteenth Day of October, 1728. In the Second Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD of Great Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c. W. BURNET.

By Command of His Excellency
the Governor, with the Advice
of His Majesties Council,
Josiah Willard Secr.

GOD Save the KING.

An Envious Old Lady.—The Baltimore Express tells of an old woman who resides in Hartford County, Md., who has a most unhappy disposition. On one occasion she was heard to say that she "begrudged poor people the *itch*, as it seemed to give them so much satisfaction to scratch themselves."

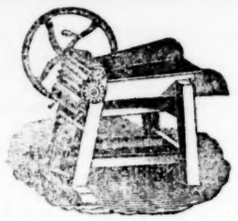
A Quaker at an inn, called for some porter, and observing the pint deficient in quantity, thus addressed the landlord: "Pray, friend, how many butts of porter dost thou draw in a month?" "Ten, sir," replied the landlord. "And thou wouldst like to draw eleven, if thou couldst," rejoined Ebenezer. "Certainly," exclaimed the smiling landlord. "Then I will tell thee how, friend," said broadbrim—"*fill thy measures.*"



WILLIS'S
Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 SCHOOL STREET.